

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A sealant tool for use in applying a sealant, comprising:  
a handle having a substantially planar configuration; and  
a substantially planar applicator portion having a fixed end that is joined to one end of the handle and a free tip section having a substantially spline radius that comprises a substantially non-marking material.
2. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle and the applicator portion are manufactured using substantially the same non-marking material.
3. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle and the applicator portion are integrated.
4. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle is manufactured using at least one of plastic, fiberglass, wood, polyurethane, and metal.
5. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the non-marking material further comprises at least one of polyurethane, polypropylene, nylon, and ~~acetal~~ acetal.
6. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the applicator portion is manufactured employing a molded injection technique.
7. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the spline radius further comprises a passive shaped curvature.
8. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the spline radius further comprises an aggressive shaped curvature.

9. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the applicator portion further comprises a longitudinal axis and an edge, and wherein a thickness of the applicator portion is maximum along the longitudinal axis and decreases approximately linearly towards the edge.

10. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is about 0.05 inches at the edge.

11. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is about 0.25 inches at the longitudinal axis.

12. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion decreases approximately linearly along the longitudinal axis in the tip section.

13. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a length of the handle and the applicator portion combined is about 9 inches.

14. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a width of the applicator portion is determined based, in part, on a width of a joint to be sealed with the sealant tool.

15. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 14, wherein the width of the applicator portion ranges between about 0.73 inches and about 1.52 inches.

16. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a length and a width of the handle is determined for a comfortable gripping of the sealant tool.

17. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a surface of the handle further comprises at least one of a smooth finish and an indented finish.

18. (Original) A method of applying a sealant to a structural joint employing a sealant tool, comprising:

selecting the sealant tool comprising a tip with an aggressive shaped curvature or a tip with passive shaped curvature, based, in part, on an esthetic aspect associated with the structural joint; and

holding the sealant tool at a predetermined angle while applying the sealant, wherein the predetermined angle determines a depth of sealant shape.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the predetermined angle of the sealant tool determines a percentage of contact surface.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the percentage of contact surface controlled by the predetermined angle of the sealant tool varies between about 26% and about 38%.

21. (Original) A sealant tool for use in applying sealant, comprising:  
a handle means having a substantially planar configuration; and  
an applicator means having a substantially planar configuration and a substantially spline radius at its free distal end, wherein a proximal end of the applicator means is joined to the handle means, and wherein the applicator means employs a substantially non-marking means.

22. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 21, wherein the free distal end of the applicator means further comprises at least one of a passive shaped curvature and an aggressive shaped curvature.

23. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 21, wherein the non-marking means comprises at least one of polyurethane, polypropylene, nylon, and ~~acetal~~ acetal.